

Message Text

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21

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1597

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN PFOR MU

SUBJECT: ARAB BOYCOTT LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

REF: STATE 234765 (NOT SENT TO ABU DHABI)

1. COPIES OF ARABIC-LANGUAGE LAW NO. 9 OF JUNE 29, 1972,
AND INFORMAL ENGLISH-LANGUAGE TRANSLATION OF JUNE 25, 1972,
VERSION THEREOF BEING POUCHED TO L/NEA (KEITH HUFFMAN).
EMBASSY DOES NOT KNOW REASON BEHIND EXISTENCE OF TWO VERSIONS
OF THIS BASIC OMANI LAW RE ARAB BOYCOTT, BUT OUR CROSS-CHECK
INDICATES THAT TEXT IS SAME. ARABIC-LANGUAGE VERSION IS
OBVIOUSLY AUTHORITATIVE.

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2. CONCERNING LAW ITSELF, WE WISH TO POINT OUT THAT ALL JURIDICAL OR NATURAL PERSONS RESIDENT IN ISRAEL ARE PROSCRIBED. BY IMPLICATION, THIS APPLIES EQUALLY TO ARAB AS WELL AS NON-ARAB ISRAELIS. SANCTIONS PROVIDED INCLUDE HARD LABOR FROM 3-10 YEARS AND POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL FINE OF NOT MORE THAN 5,000 OMANI RIALS (\$14,600). OFFENDERS ALSO REQUIRED PUBLICLY TO ADVERTISE THEIR VIOLATIONS. EMBASSY KNOWS OF NO CASES OF SANCTIONS HAVING BEEN APPLIED.

3. AS IS CASE ELSEWHERE, APPLICATION OF ARAB BOYCOTT IS IN CONTEXT OF LOCAL CONVENIENCE. IN OMAN, THIS INEVITABLY BOILS DOWN TO QUESTIONS OF COMMERCIAL INTEREST AND COMPETITION RATHER THAN ANY OF GRANDER ARAB-ISRAELI POLITICS. IN SOME CASES, PATTERN OF VIOLATION IS SO PERVASIVE AND LONG-STANDING (E.G. IMPORTATION OF LAND ROVERS) THAT IT MIGHT BE HARD TO CONVINCE EVEN THOSE SMALL NUMBERS OF OMANIS CONSCIOUS OF BOYCOTT THAT THIS CAMEL-SUBSTITUTE IS BLACKLISTED. IN OTHER CASES, SHEER IGNORANCE OF A COMPANY'S STATUS APPLIES--E.G. WE ARE AMUSED BY FACT THAT NO ONE SEEMS TO HAVE REALIZED THAT COLT INDUSTRIES IS ON ARAB BOYCOTT LIST, ALTHOUGH COMPANY IS DEFINITELY ON SOME PRIVATE BLACKLISTS FOR INEFFICIENCY IN HANDLING RECENT ORDER FOR WEAPONS. FINALLY, BOYCOTT CAN BE USED AS WEAPON AGAINST COMPETITION AS IT WAS WHEN AMERICAN MOTORS JEEP PRODUCTS WERE STARTING TO APPEAR ON MARKET. IN THAT CASE, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT IMPORTER OF SIMILARLY-BOYCOTTED LAND ROVERS PROBABLY WENT TO MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE TO GET "CLARIFICATION" THAT JEEP INDEED ON BOYCOTT LIST.
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